danger to human life. The activity is being monitored by using satellite date by Department of Space. The Scientists and Experts have not predicted any definite risk to the Islands becaurse of the volcanic eruption.

Traffic system in Delhi

1695. SHRI JAGADISH JANI:
SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:
CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the heavy strain in the traffic system in Delhi/New Delhi;

(b) if so, whether any long term plan is proposed to be implemented to cope with the growing traffic in the Capital;

(c) whether Government propose to set up a unified metropolitan transport authority to tackle the growing traffic problem; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) As a step towards reducing the traffic congestion in Delhi, the Delhi Administration got the techno-economic feasibility study for the introduction of Mass Rapid Transit System through Rail India Technical & Economical Services Ltd. The study has recommended the introduction of a multi modal mass repid transit service for Delhi as a long term measure. Setting up a single transport authority for handling the traffic and transportation of Delhi is another recommendation made by RITES. The report has been studied by the Delhi Administration and also by the Government of India. A number of discussions with the concerned agencies have been held. A project involving such a large investment as Rs. 5378 cr. requires preparation of detailed project reports, analysis of the implication on the land use, Delhi Master Plan and so on. Avenues for funding will also have to be identified before the work on the project is commenced.

(c) and (d) The Government of India have already constituted a high power committee of directions under the chairmanship of LT. Governor of Delhi to go into various aspects including setting up of a single transport authority as also identification of funds for the construction, etc. of the project.

Decentralization of procurement and storage of foodgrains

1696. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a need to decentralise the procurement and storage of foodgrains;

(b) whether this process will ensure a greater involvement of the people; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) to (c) The foodgrains (wheat, paddy and coarsegrains) are procured for Central Pool by Food Corporation of India in various States/Union Territories, in collaboration with the State Governments and their procuring agencies against voluntary sale by farmers under Government's price support scheme. These grains are thus procured directly from the farmers by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State agencies. However, States have been requested to involve their agencies like Cooperatives, Civil Supplies Corporation, etc. in a greater measure, to act as agents of FCI, so that procurement operations could be further extended, even in areas where State Governments have not been able to make regulated markets effective. As far as storage is concerned, FCI and Central warehousing Corporation make it's own arrangement, whereas at State level, the State Warehousing Corporations and rural godowns provide storage facilities to clients including farmers.